ARTICLE ALERT

Novermber 2009

Article Alert is a monthly product of the Information Resource Center of the U.S. Consulate General in Shanghai. It brings to your attention abstracts of current articles in the areas of rule of law, economics, the environment, regional security, U.S. society and more. Most of full texts are accessible from Internet. To get a free subscription, please send a sign-up email to Shanghaiirc@state.gov.

U.S. POLITICS AND SOCIAL PROCESSES

[1] The Shriver Report: A Woman's Nation Changes Everything Maria Shriver and the Center for American Progress, October 16, 2009 Click here for available text on the Internet [HTML format]

This report describes how a woman's nation changes everything about how we live and work today. Now for the first time in our nation's history, women are half of all U.S. workers and mothers are the primary breadwinners or co-breadwinners in nearly two-thirds of American families. This is a dramatic shift from just a generation ago (in 1967 women made up only one-third of all workers). It changes how women spend their days and has a ripple effect that reverberates throughout our nation. It fundamentally changes how we all work and live, not just women but also their families, their co-workers, their bosses, their faith institutions, and their communities.

[2] Building A Better Citizen: How The Government Can Make Us Better At Self-government
Miller-McCune, November 2, 2009
David Villano
Click here for available text on the Internet [HTML format]

In the late 1980s, Hampton, Va., faced the challenges of many blue-collar cities along its stretch of the southern Chesapeake: rising unemployment, a stagnant economy and the flight of young families to seek better jobs and fuller lives elsewhere. City leaders gambled on a novel response. They would target young people, hoping to cultivate a generation of citizens committed to Hampton's long-term vitality.

[3] The Big-Spending, High-Taxing, Lousy-Services Paradigm City Journal, Autumn 2009, Vol. 19, No. 4 William Voegeli

Click here for available text on the Internet [HTML format]

In 1956, the economist Charles Tiebout provided the framework that best explains why people vote with their feet. The "consumer-voter," as Tiebout called him, challenges government officials to "ascertain his wants for public goods and tax him accordingly." Each jurisdiction

offers its own package of public goods, along with a particular tax burden needed to pay for those goods. As a result, "the consumer-voter moves to that community whose local government best satisfies his set of preferences." In selecting a jurisdiction, the mobile consumer-voter is, in effect, choosing a club to join based on the benefits that it offers and the dues that it charges.

ENVIROMENT AND ENERGY

[4] Climate Change: Comparison Of The Cap-And-Trade Provisions In H.R. 2454 And S. 1733.

Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. November 5, 2009 Brent D. Yacobucci et al.

Click here for available text on the Internet [PDF format, 58 pages]

This report provides a comparison of the cap-and-trade provisions of H.R. 2454 and S. 1733. Most notably, there are six key differences between the bills: (1) the Senate bill has a more stringent emissions cap between 2017 and 2029; (2) the two bills allocate emissions allowances and auction revenue to different recipients at different levels; (3) the bills would treat offsets differently; (4) the House bill would establish extensive carbon market regulation (the Senate bill currently has a placeholder for this topic); (5) the House bill would establish a requirement that importers purchase special emission allowances for certain imports from countries without greenhouse gas controls (the Senate bill currently has a placeholder for this topic); and 6) both bills would limit the Environmental Protection Agency's authority to regulate greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act, although in different ways.

[5] The Future Of Cars: Industry Leaders Look Way Down The Road Scientific American, November 2009

Click here for available text on the Internet [HTML format]

The car fleet of 2030 will use a patchwork quilt of different fuels and power trains, with some cars meant for short hops and city driving. As the years go by, vehicles will become increasingly connected to one another electronically, for crash prevention and social networking. Driver distraction will be an ongoing concern. Whether cars that run on hydrogen fuel cells will be common in 20 years remains an open question.

[6] Countdown To Copenhagen National Journal, October 31, 2009 Stokes, Bruce

Click here for available text on the Internet [HTML format]

Stokes says that the negotiations at the climate-change talks in Copenhagen in December promise to be a daunting task. It is estimated that emissions will need to be cut by 50 percent by 2050 in order to hold the temperature rise to 2 degrees Celsius and carbon-dioxide concentrations to 450 parts per million. The industrialized world's goals at the conference will reflect their publics' acknowledgement of the seriousness of the problem -- and in this, the U.S. lags behind the rest of the developed world. The developing nations see binding commitments as not in their

national interest, noting that they account for only a fraction of global emissions, and want the developed countries to help pay for clean technology and environmental mitigation. Most countries are reluctant to take action on their own, without seeing that others are doing the same. Stokes says that "the central challenge in Copenhagen may well be finding a way to nurture trust and marry it with ambition . . . Coordinating these activities, striking a balance between accountability and equity, and pursuing the goals with sufficient urgency may prove to be among the most daunting tasks that the global community has ever undertaken."

[7] More Carrot and Less Stick Needed to Fight Global Warming YaleGlobal , 28 October 2009 Emmanuelle Ganne

Click here for available text on the Internet [HTML format]

With the convention on climate change in Copenhagen in December fast approaching, countries tend to be focusing on measures that punish carbon users. As 2009 Yale World Fellow and trade specialist Emmanuelle Ganne puts it, governments favor a stick approach. But while popular, such policies place significant costs on households and create an image of fighting climate change as a burden. They do little to change behavior. There is no denying that the costs to reverse climate change will be high, but an approach that supports the use of clean technologies, lowers barriers for their implementation, and helps foster changes in people's behavior would be better than punishing carbon users. For example, giving individuals the opportunity to monitor their energy usage could provide an appropriate feedback mechanism to alter behavior. Obviously there is even more that can be done through research and development and aiding early adoption of clean technology. But at this stage, governments seemed more concerned with pushing users away from carbon, rather than nudging them toward green technology. (Abstract from YaleGlobal)

[8] Awaiting Climate Accord, Governments Toy With Dubious Measures. YaleGlobal. November 6, 2009 Doaa Abdel Motaal

Click here for available text on the Internet [HTML format]

In the lead up to the Copenhagen Climate Summit in December, developed and developing nations are already preparing themselves for the outcome, a multilateral deal or not. This approach is bound to harm the prospects for reversing global warming, for fostering free trade, and for ensuring competition, according to World Trade Organization Counselor Doaa Abdel Motaal. Many countries plan to enact unilateral measures to prevent domestic industries from losing competitiveness and to stem "carbon leakage," the shift in emissions from countries that cap emissions to those that don't. If a congeries of unilateral measures get enacted, the potential for discord over tackling climate change is likely to become more pronounced. Such strife would do little to help the environment. (Abstract from YaleGlobal).

ECONOMICS AND TRADE ISSUES

[9] Fact Sheet: U.S.-China Joint Commission On Commerce And Trade Executive Office of the President of the United States. October 29, 2009 Click here for available text on the Internet [PDF format, 5 pages].

U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke and U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk, together with Chinese Vice Premier Wang Qishan, co-chaired the 20th JCCT in Hangzhou, China, on October 28-29, 2009. The Fact Sheet provides outcomes of the topics discussed.

[10] Left Behind to Farm?: Women's Labor Re-allocation In Rural China World Bank. October 31, 2009 Ren Mu and Dominique van de Walle

Click here for available text on the Internet [PDF format, 51 pages]

The transformation of work during China's rapid economic development is associated with a substantial but little noticed re-allocation of traditional farm labor among women, with some doing much less and some much more. The paper studies how the work, time allocation, and health of non-migrant women are affected by the out-migration of others in their household. The analysis finds that the women left behind are doing more farm work than would have otherwise been the case.

[11] Partnering To Beckon Them Home: Public-Sector Innovation For Diaspora Foreign Investment Promotion

Public Administration and Development, Vol. 28, No. 1, February 2008, pp. 54-66 Riddle, Liesl; Brinkerhoff, Jennifer; Nielsen, Tjai

Ask IRC for an electronic copy

The authors examine a little-studied component of public administration existing in most countries around the world and particularly important for developing countries: national investment promotion agencies (IPAs). Diasporas are an increasingly important and relatively untapped resource for development and many homeland governments view diaspora foreign investment as key to their economic development. In addition to being generally underresourced, many IPAs struggle to identify ways to effectively target, cultivate and facilitate diaspora homeland investment (DHI). To accomplish these goals, these public-sector entities are beginning to identify and leverage key partnerships in the NGO sector. The authors describe the services IPAs offer and enumerate the challenges they face associated with DHI. Drawing on three illustrations of IPA–NGO partnerships, they have developed preliminary tools for identifying and designing partnerships for the purpose of promoting DHI based on their scope, function and degree of formality.

[12] Losin Controls: How U.S. Export Restrictions Jeopardize National Security And Harm Competitiveness

Foreign Affairs, Vol. 88, No. 6, November/December 2009, pp. 11-19 Wallerstein, Mitchel

Ask IRC for an electronic copy

In today's wired and highly competitive world, export controls cannot longer be effective and sometimes can be counterproductive, says Wallerstein, a former U.S. defense official and now dean of the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. U.S. exports controls, which have become more arcane and ineffective with time, undermine national security by discouraging innovative firms from pursuing dual-use technologies and foreign firms that own advanced technologies from bidding for U.S. defense contracts. Imposing licensing requirements that foreign rivals don't face, weakens competitive positions of U.S. high-tech companies. The business lost due to export controls -- estimated at \$ 9 billion a year — poses a threat to the strength of key U.S. industries. In many instances, those making technical decisions about whether certain technologies or scientific information should be subject to control lack the necessary training and knowledge. Carefully targeted export restrictions are necessary in regard to rogue or aggressively militarizing states. But policymakers must abandon the notion that the U.S. can engage in technology denial without suffering significant costs to its prosperity and national security, the author says.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

[13] China's Arrival: The Long March To Global Power Keynote Address By U.S. Deputy Secretary Of State James B. Steinberg, September 24, 2009

Steinberg, James B.

Click here for available text on the Internet [PDF format, 12 pages]

The Center for a New American Security hosted James B. Steinberg, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, as the keynote speaker at an event marking the launch of CNAS' new report, China's Arrival: A Strategic Framework for a Global Relationship. Deputy Secretary Steinberg's address laid out the Obama Administration's vision for the future of the U.S.-China relationship.

[14] China's Role In The "New Era Of Engagement" Council on Foreign Relations, November 10, 2009 Stewart M. Patrick

Click here for available text on the Internet [HTML format]

China has benefited enormously from Western-dominated global structures, writes Stewart Patrick, and Washington now expects it to contribute more significantly to world order.

[15] Managing Unmet Expectations In The U.S.-Japan Alliance National Bureau of Asian Research, November 2009 Michael Finnegan

Click here for available text on the Internet [PDF format, 44 pages]

The report examines the U.S.-Japan alliance to answer three related questions: Is the alliance meeting the mutual expectations of the partners? If not, what are the potential consequences? Given the stakes involved, what are the policy implications for the alliance?

[16] China, Nuclear Security And Terrorism: Implications for the United States Orbis, vol. 53, no. 4, Fall 2009, pp. 685-704 Grogan, Steven

Ask IRC for an electronic copy

Grogan, with the Defense Intelligence Agency, describes Chinese strategic nuclear forces and the Chinese approach to nuclear security. He then focuses on the domestic conditions in China which could result in vulnerabilities to its nuclear forces. Based on these threats, Grogan outlines several scenarios involving a variety of terrorist or terrorist related events. These notional scenarios include overrun or attack, diversion, cyber terrorism and sabotage. He covers what these scenarios and the possible Chinese reaction to them may mean for the security, military and diplomatic strategies of the U.S.

[17] The 'Mega-Eights': Urban Leviathans And International Instability Orbis, vol. 53, no. 4, Fall 2009, pp. 663-647 Liotta, P.H.; Miskel, James F. Ask IRC for an electronic copy

Liotta and Miskel note that in 2015, there will be 58 cities on the planet with a population of 5 million or more and, by 2025, according to National Intelligence Council, 27 cities with a population exceeding 10 million. The U.N. Population Division classifies populations in excess of 10 million as megacities and many of these urban behemoths will be located in the so-called 10/40 window -- the area in Africa and Asia between north latitude 10 and 40 degrees. The authors believe that this urban growth will have serious consequences for international stability, human security and environmental degradation. Without a doubt, unchecked growth in the megacities in the 10/40 window will change the face of the global map in the twenty-first century.

EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

[18] Fulbright Program Adapts To Obama Administration's Priorities Chronicle of Higher Education, Vol. 56, No. 9, October 23, 2009, pp. A29-A32 McMurtrie, Beth

Click here for available text on the Internet [HTML format]

The Obama Administration is putting its own stamp on the Fulbright Program, the U.S. Government's flagship international exchange. In the lead article, Beth McMurtrie describes the new priorities based on her interview with Alina L. Romanowski, the State Department's deputy assistant secretary for academic programs in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Among the new priorities: studies of such global issues as food security and climate change through the Fulbright Science and Technology award; the increased participation of U.S. community colleges; and the kind of cultural diplomacy represented by the Fulbright

Fellowships. Three profiles of Fulbright programs follow. In the first, McMurtrie looks at the role U.S. community colleges may play in Russia if a high-level visit to Moscow by a group of community college administrators in Spring 2010 develops as planned. In the second profile, Shailaja Neelakantan looks at the Fulbright program in India, which has doubled this year. In the third profile, Karin Fischer describes how a university in California has taken advantage of an underutilized Fulbright program that covers scholars' travel costs when they conduct guest lectures.

[19] Open Courses: Free, But Oh, So Costly Chronicle of Higher Education, Vol. 56, No. 8, October 16, 2009, pp. A1, A16, A20 Parry, Marc

Click here for available text on the Internet [HTML format]

This lead in a series of articles on the Open Courseware Movement focuses on the perils and prospects for a phenomenon that some believe could end college as we know it, but others believe is about to fail for lack of a business model. MIT, the leader in open courseware, now offers almost 2,000 free courses and has more than 1.3 million monthly visits to its website and a \$3.7 million annual budget. But each course costs \$10,000–\$15,000 to put together. With the foundations that have until now bankrolled open courseware projects reducing or eliminating their funding, MIT now envisions fund-raising. Students love the courses but want credit; critics worry that you can't give away a college education for free without undermining the institutions that charge hundreds of thousands of dollars for a degree. Utah State recently dropped its open courseware project after money from the state legislature and a foundation dried up. The biggest question looming on the horizon: Will Congress fund the Obama Administration's \$500 million proposal to build open courses online? In "Around the World, Varied Approaches to Open Online Learning," Simmi Aujla and Ben Terris look at efforts ranging from those in China and India to boost open courseware through government support to those in the United Kingdom to make online learning more truly collaborative and interactive.

[20] College Enrollment Hits All-time High, Fueled By Community College Surge Pew Research Center. October 29, 2009 Paul Taylor et al.

Click here for available text on the Internet [PDF format, 19 pages]

The share of 18- to 24-year-olds attending college in the United States hit an all-time high in October 2008, driven by a recession-era surge in enrollments at community colleges, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of newly released data from the U.S. Census Bureau. Just under 11.5 million students, or 39.6% of all young adults ages 18 to 24, were enrolled in either a two- or four-year college in October 2008, the most recent date for which comprehensive nationwide data are available. Both figures, the absolute number as well as the share, are at their highest level ever.

U.S. SOCIETY AND VALUES

[21] Digital History Review: Get Out Your Photographs! American Heritage online, posted October 7, 2009 Stange, Eric

Click here for available text online [HTML format]

The Digital Diaspora Family Reunion is the creation of documentary filmmaker Thomas Allen Harris, who launched this initiative to encourage African-American households to share with the world via the Web their old family photos, now hidden away in attics and boxes. Harris seeks to digitize and archive thousands of photographs to make them part of the public record of black America. He notes that the work of both professional and amateur African-American photographers has rarely been studied, and a public digital archive will give a more complete picture of the life of black America. Harris has taken his campaign around the country in a "road show"-style format; in Atlanta, Georgia, dozens of people came forward with hundreds of photographs. What has surprised Harris is the amount of African-American family images dating from the earliest years of photography, starting with daguerreotypes in the 1850s and 1860s.

[22] Growing Season Washington Post Magazine, October 25, 2009, pp. 18-22 Lee, Mara

Click here for available text on the Internet

The move toward sustainable agriculture has some young adults deciding to spend a season, or a lifetime, in the fields as they turn to small farms to make a fresh start, or as a new career. They are often young, educated, politically motivated workers drawn to farms that embrace humane and eco-friendly practices. Such operations are getting a boost from Community Supported Agriculture, a system that lets customers pay in advance for a weekly share of a nearby farm's crops; the number of people participating in CSAs has grown 50% between 2007 and 2009. The number of farmers' markets in the United States has jumped by almost 13% over the last year and now even the White House has its own organic garden.

ARTS AND LITERATURE

[23] White Canvas House Guernica Magazine. August 2009 Somerstein, Rachel

Click here for available text on the internet [HTML format]

What's revealing about Obama's art selections for the White House has nothing to do with gender or race. It's more abstract than that...The artists not included in the White House's four-hundred-and-fifty-piece permanent collection read like a greatest hits list of twentieth-century American art: Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko, Edward Hopper, Jasper Johns, Willem de

Kooning, Louise Bourgeois, Eva Hesse, Joan Mitchell, Robert Rauschenberg, Ben Shahn, Andy Warhol.

[24] Chuck Brown's Long Dance Washington Post Magazine, October 4, 2009, pp. 18-26 Parker, Robin Rose Click here for available text on the Inernet [HTML format]

At 73, legendary Washington, D.C. musician Chuck Brown still has the energy of someone a third of his age; in the early 1970s, he created go-go music, and has stayed on the scene ever since. The author writes that Brown is one of a small number of musicians that single-handedly created a genre of music; blending Latin beats, African rhythms, jazz and the music of African-American churches, Brown slowed down the tempo of disco, which was popular in the 1970s. Brown called it go-go because it "goes and goes" -- with no breaks between songs. Most of his performances have been in the eastern U.S. -- but he makes an annual trip to Japan, where he has become very popular.

Information Resource Center (IRC)
Public Affairs Section
U.S. Consulate General Shanghai
Suite 532, 1376 Nanjing West Road
Shanghai, 200040
Tel: 86-21-6279-7662 x 4678

Fax: 021-6279-7603
Email: shanghaiirc@state.gov
http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/